



NUDE CANVAS

Exhibition Catalogue

September 2015

Diani Beach Shopping Centre • Diani Beach • Kenya
gallery@dianiart.com • www.dianiart.com
www.facebook/diani.art.gallery
+254(0)706 629 655

Painting 'Contemplation 1' by Fred Abuga
Page 36



NUDE CANVAS – EXHIBITION

The Diani Beach Art Gallery was turning 5 years old this September and to commemorate this milestone, we invited our artists to submit pieces that would suit the theme we had set out for the festivities; “NUDE CANVAS”

This exhibition was created as a celebration of the human form and its beauty. This most basic of subjects that all of this talented pool of 27 artists had, have and will continue to interact with as they work.

What they came up with was a striking selection of canvases and sculptures that can be seen in this catalogue. So take a minute to indulge your senses by browsing through the artwork and have a look at our Facebook page (facebook.com/diani.art.gallery) for recently acquired pieces, artist profiles and news of the African art world.



All artworks shown in this catalogue are originals unless otherwise stated. Prices are exclusive of shipping. Shipping can be arranged worldwide

Featured artists

Click on the artists name to go straight to their page. To return to this artist index, click the gallery logo at the bottom of each artist page. Interested in commissioning your own piece of art? Click [here](#) for more information.

NUDE CANVAS ARTWORK

Adonias Ocom (Uganda)
Anne Mwiti (Kenya)
Boniface Maina (Kenya)
Churchill Ongere (Kenya)
Collin Sekajugo (Uganda)
David Maiden (Kenya/UK)
Dennis Muraguri (Kenya)
Eddy Ochieng (Kenya)
Eveline Hasselman (Kenya/NL)
Fred Abuga (Kenya)
Jessica Atieno (Kenya)
Kamal Shah (Kenya)

Lemek Tompoika (Kenya)
Longinos Nagila (Kenya)
Martin Onyis (Kenya)
Michael Soi (Kenya)
Nadia Kisseleva (Kenya/Russia)
Paul Njihia (Kenya)
Ronald Kerango (Uganda)
Sebawali Sio (Kenya)
Ssali Yusuf (Uganda)
Yassir Ali (Sudan)

SCULPTURES

Gakunju Kaigwa (Kenya)
Kepha Mosoti (Kenya)
Martin Onyis (Kenya)
Patrick Mulondo (Uganda)
Pim Nicolai (Kenya/NL)
Tom Oneya (Kenya)



NUDE CANVAS

EXHIBITION ARTWORKS



ADONIAS OCOM

The figurative artist and photographer Ocom Adonias says his father and elder brother introduced him into the world of arts and greatly inspired him. Over time, the education at school greatly influenced him as he learnt about the art and language movement of great artists such as George Kyeyune and Taga Nuwagaba.

Currently painting from Karewu Art Studio, Adonias is working in oils, watercolour and some other medium such as acrylics. His work engages in the realistic presentation of the lives of the common man and his heritage.

The underlying intention is to tell stories about his experiences and the lives of people that he has met. Adonias' interest in the common man has led to current artistic research about his heritage and to the creation of his latest painting series "Save Karamoja," a project which is aiming to create a positive image of Karamoja and conserving the heritage.

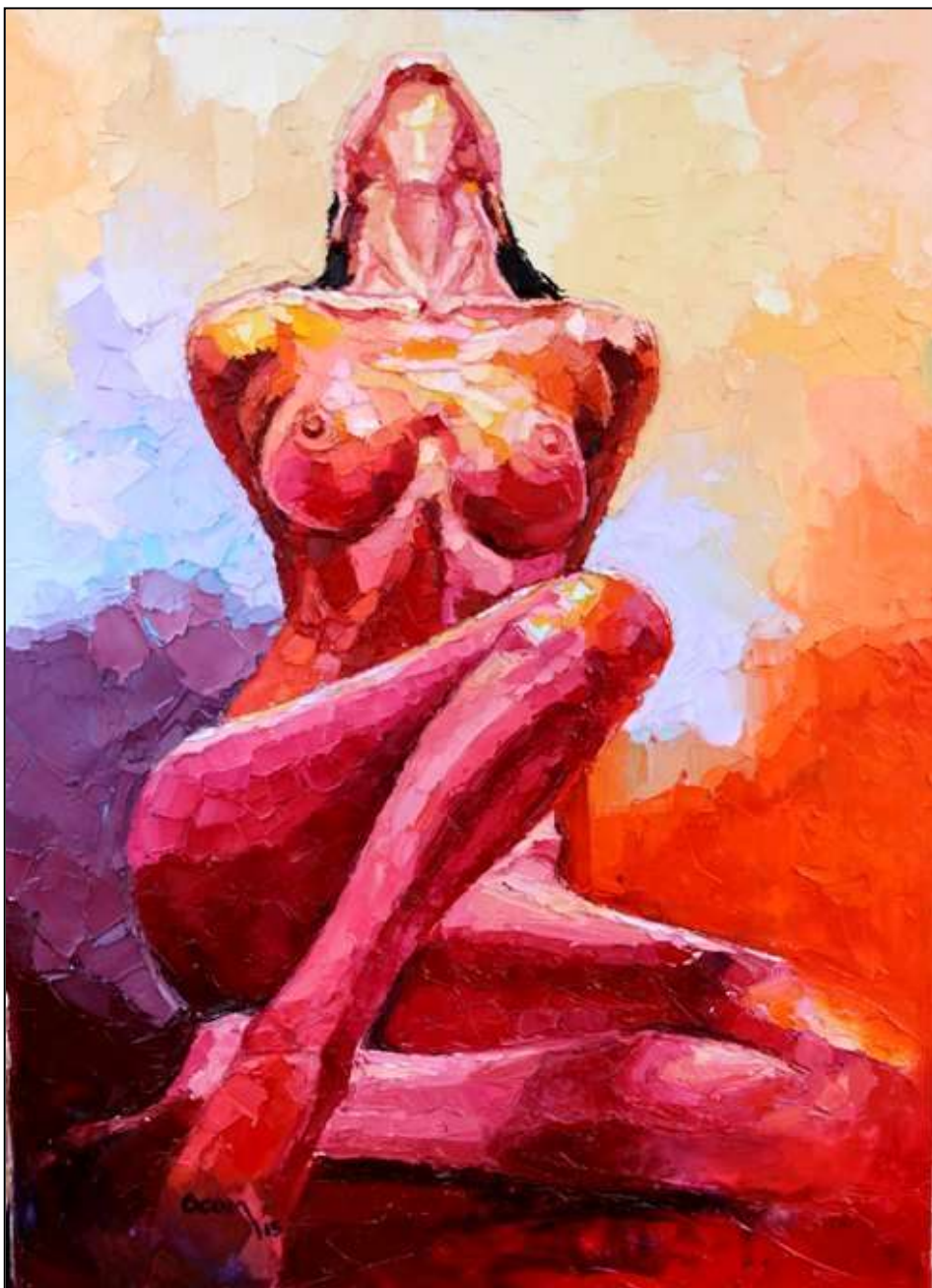
Ocom has worked as a photographer, too, before he decided to focus on his painting career. He has participated in various exhibitions, mainly in Uganda and in Kenya. His work has also graced the cover of Uganda's Arts Diary 2015.

Adonias was born in Kireka in 1989 and in 2013 he graduated from Margaret Trowell School of Industrial and Fine Arts at Makerere University.

When asked about his artistic base, Ocom says, "My work is a journey of exploration in which other travelers are essential. It's an art of healing."



Adonias Ocom
Akello
Oil on canvas
72cm x 100cm



Adonias Ocom
Roses Are Red
Oil on canvas
72cm x 100cm



ANNE MWITI

In the little village of Meru on the slopes of Mount Kenya, a five year old Anne Mwiti made an abstract drawing of a girl. Her father inspected it and modified it. That was her first art lesson and from then on, she has never looked back.

She has slowly but steadily created a name for herself as an abstract artist whose pieces dwell on African thoughts and experiences, brought to life on the canvas by generous amounts of oils.

Anne draws inspiration from numerous sources. This can be seen in her body of works. 'Looking for the Other Half' documents the artists' belief whereby all beings have a relationship with others and are searching for their other half, making them whole.

The artist is also inspired by nature; this can be seen in her work titled 'The Blue Valley' which seeks to show the natural beauty of the Aberdare Mountains in Rift Valley, with waterfalls and mixed vegetation bringing both man and nature together in celebration.

When at the National Museums of Kenya, Anne created 'The Meditating Boy', a painting she attributes to the oldest bones in human history. Anne is currently a lecturer in the Department of Art and Design at Kenyatta University in Nairobi where she is working on her PhD. She has won several commissions; her art has been in exhibitions numerous times and has also been sold to private collectors overseas.



Anne Mwiti
Expression 3
Acrylics on canvas
40cm x40

Anne Mwiti
Expression 4
Acrylics on canvas
40cm x40





Anne Mwiti
The Archer
Acrylics on canvas
100cm x 100cm

Anne Mwiti
Hypnotic Silence
Acrylics on canvas
92cm x 122cm





Anne Mwiti
Solace
Acrylics on canvas
100cm x 100cm



BONIFACE MAINA

For the past four years, Boniface has worked as a self-representative artist. His inspiration is drawn from social events in relation to how we react toward them.

He uses acrylics as his preferred medium because he feels it lets him put together all the elements and effects he needs in a painting as fast and as fresh as possible.

A look at his works and you will see that Boniface likes to incorporate a dream-like feature in his work to try and bring out what is on his mind both on a conscious and subconscious level.

Boniface was born in Nanyuki, Kenya, in the year 1987. Art is not only a talent he has had since I was little but also a passion. In 2006-2008, he attended the Y.M.C.A National Training Institute in Nairobi where I attained a Diploma in Art and Design.



Boniface Maina
Nude Series 1
Acrylics on canvas
40cm x 50cm



Boniface Maina
Nude Series 3
Acrylics on canvas
40cm x 50cm



Boniface Maina
Nude Series 4
Acrylics on canvas
40cm x 50cm



CHURCHILL ONGERE

So far not very involved in showing his work, Churchill has made a lauded entry onto the art scene by displaying at a Nairobi Art Gallery and being identified by an art scout from Saatchi Gallery for his unique collage art works.

Born in 1991 in Kisumu, Ongere was brought up by an artist father and attributes this as one of the reasons why he decided to pursue art seriously, as watching his father work inspired him to follow the same path.

Pursuing a Degree in Political Science at Maseno University, Churchill engages other students in art activities as the team leader of an arts group that was formed in campus to champion the interests of students who create art.

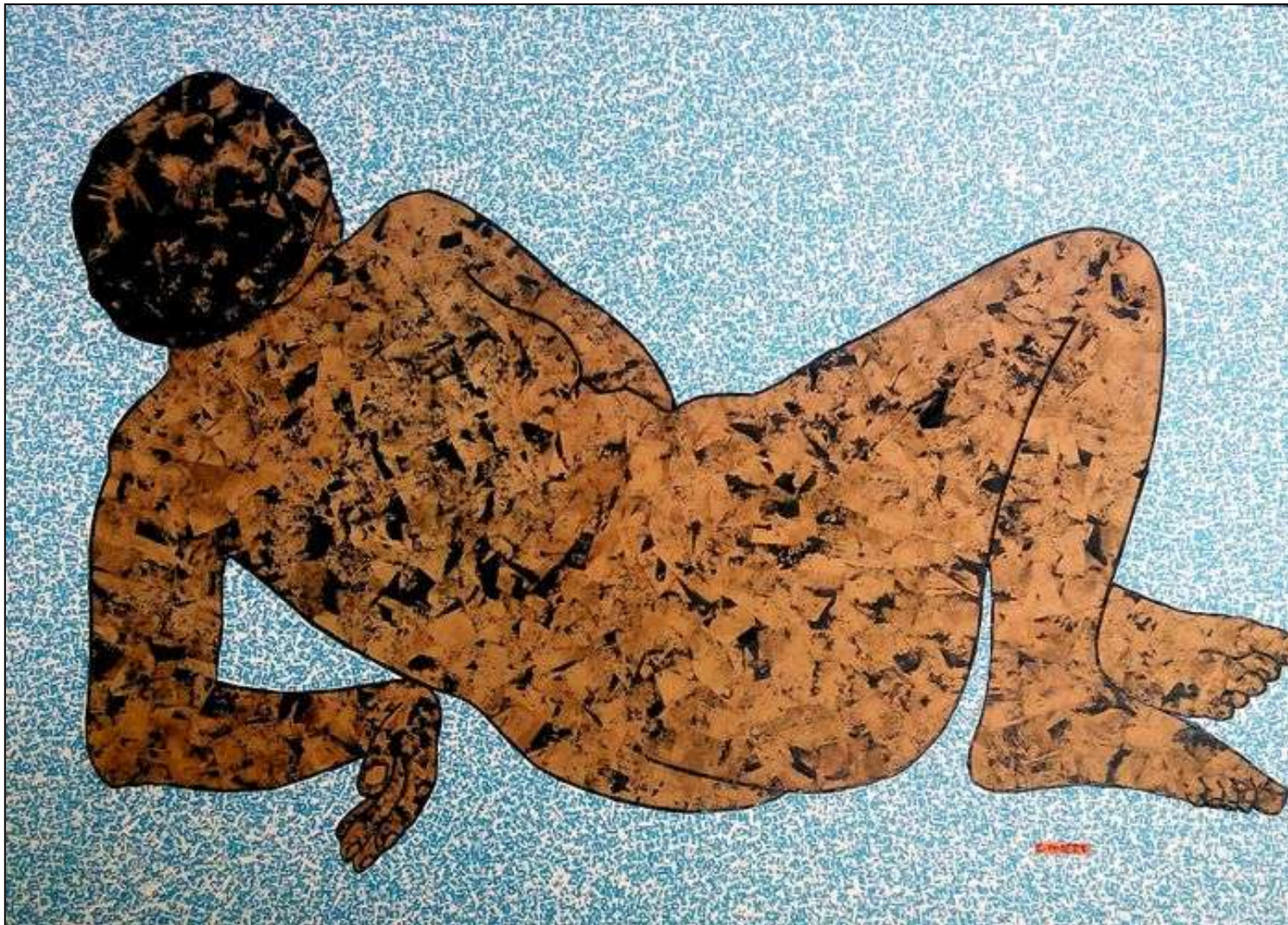
He also runs an art blog and says his works are a collection of ideas, values and personalities he cherishes- as can be seen by the pieces on display here.

Using the collage technique, Churchill's works are often visual representations of subjects such as politics, liberty, freedom and beauty.

On whether he intends to keep painting now that he has been producing only collage pieces for the past one year, he says that his art career is still at its infant stages and intends to use all medium possible, although he finds collage more fulfilling now.

Exhibitions

September 2013, Kisumu: Visions of Grandeur Art (Group) Exhibition
July 2014, Kisumu: Mwanzo Art (Group) Exhibition, Salzar Hotel
August 2014, Nairobi: Reflections on Paper, Shifteye Gallery



Churchill Ongere
Nude Series 1
Paper collage
107cm x 83cm



Churchill Ongere
Nude Series 2
Paper collage
83cm x 107cm



COLLIN SEKAJUGO

We tend to become constrained in our heritage and cultural backgrounds, but Collin believes that when culture dictates a lot in our daily livelihoods, we eventually lose our moral values as subjected to the world we live in today.

The artist has learned that various traditions have over time been ignored, dismantling societies and building up new cultures. Many have lost their cultural heritage and assimilated new cultures and others are born in a mixture of cultures hence losing cultural identity.

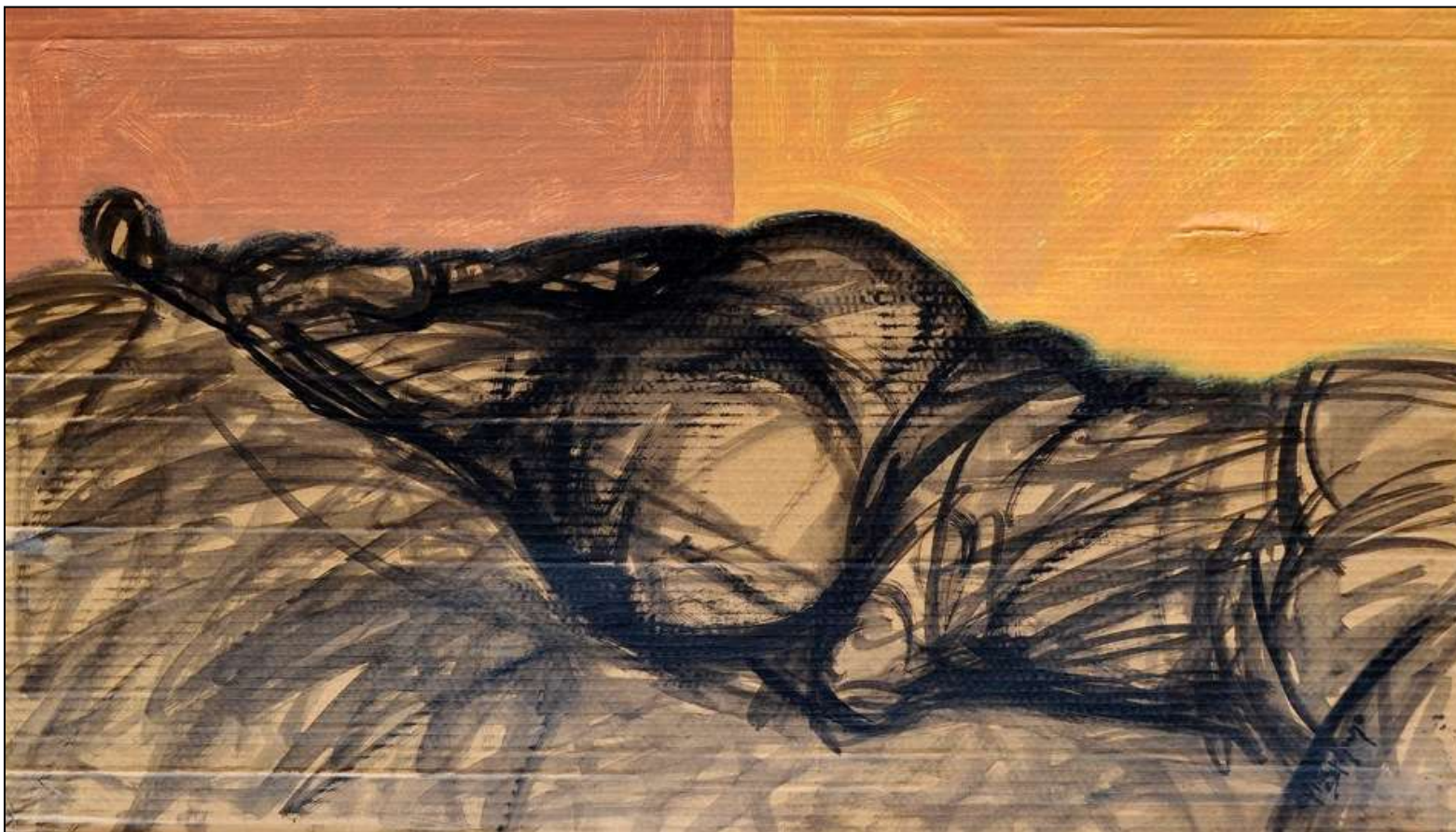
Collin relays that even though he is born of men and women whose blood is rooted in the reaches of the upper Nile, his work has less to do with his ancestry or cultural heritage. It's about his surroundings, experiences and emotions. He has focused on change in society because it is rapid and solid. His art is about social conscience and healing.

Raising awareness for issues concerning our breaking societies: from discrimination to segregation, from environmental change to isolation and from disintegration to integration. Through his work, he is developing concepts on the elements that build or destroy our societies.

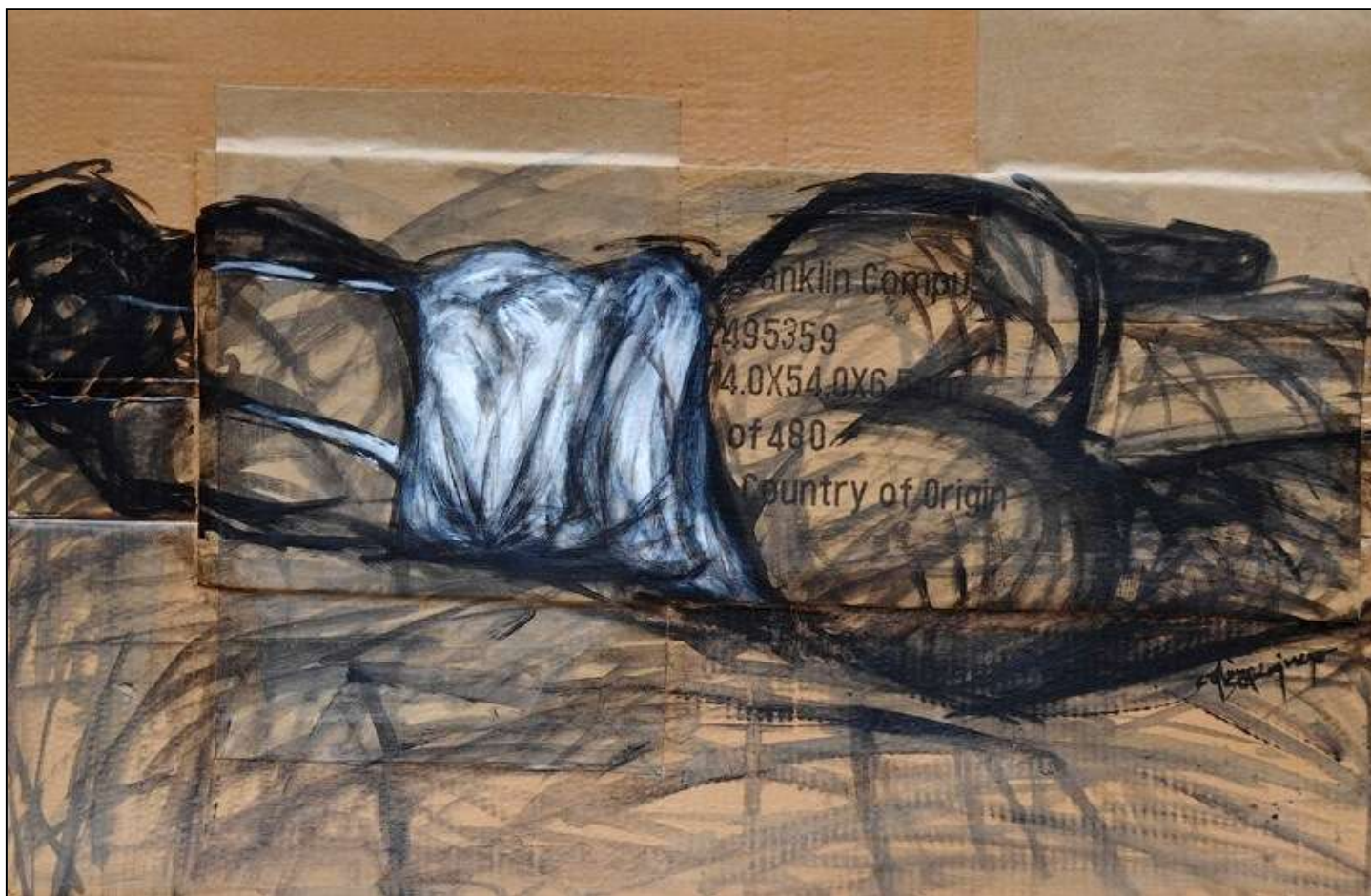
This message is portrayed in his artwork- bold strokes in mild hues that are a demonstration of the current social transformation. In Collin's work, he is stitching together different identities that create a bond for our common values as a people.



Collin Sekajugo
Anticipation
Mixed media on canvas
100cm x 100cm



Collin Sekajugo
Waiting 1
Mixed media on carton
96cm x 58cm



Collin Sekajugo
Waiting 2
Mixed media on carton
96cm x 66cm



Collin Sekajugo
Waiting 3
Mixed media on carton
81cm x 64cm

DAVID MAIDEN



David Maiden is a young British artist who was brought up in the beautiful scenery of the Lake District National Park in the north of England.

After University, he spent four years in London exhibiting his work in a number of galleries. Two years ago David and his wife Joanna decided to pack up their lives in London and move here to the Kenyan coast in search of inspiration for his new work.

Before moving to Kenya, David used to paint almost exclusively in black and white. This quickly changed once he arrived in Africa. David fell in love with the vibrancy of the bright coastal colours, with the regions rich hues, the variety of landscapes and the versatility of cultures reflected in the human form. All this has now become characteristic for his art.

David initially trained as a photographer before turning his attention to painting almost 10 years ago. Photography has a big influence on his work which is often very photographic in detail.

But unlike in photographs, an untamed edge to David's work makes it all the more fascinating, where his finishing is mostly sketchy and dreamy.

David paints a wide subject matter but specializes in portraits and scenery with some of his portraits having been commissioned by clients around the world.

David Maiden
Figure with Mannequin
Oil on linen
41cm x 61cm





David Maiden
Figure
Oil on linen
41cm x 41cm

David Maiden
Figure with Pearl
Oil on linen
100cm x 100cm





DENNIS MURAGURI

Dennis Muraguri is a Kenyan artist who was born in 1980 in Naivasha. He attended the Buru Buru Institute of Fine Arts in Nairobi between 2000-2003, where he graduated top of his class and attained a Diploma in Painting and History of Art.

Muraguri says he finds the overall inspiration for both his paintings and sculptures in globalization.

The message in Muraguri's work is positive and reflective, it tells the story that Africa is no longer the 'Dark Continent' but it is becoming more and more modernized and affected by technology.

Please go to page 169 to view Muraguri's sculptures. His works are a representations of the industrialization in Kenya and most of them are inspired by music, as can be seen his use of parts of instruments or metal shaped as such.

All sculptures are mixed media where wood and metal are combined. The metal used represents the people who manufacture all kinds of things. The wood, on the other hand, symbolizes the natural side of life.



Dennis Muraguri
Old East
Acrylics on canvas
212cm x 1119cm

EDDIE OCHIENG



Eddie's paintings are influenced by humanity: The things that make up the diversity that there is in people. Talk of skill, character, age, gender, race and language.

These aspects are like a network of warps and wefts, making a beautiful fabric. He often employs thick brush strokes on the background and washes for the subject with a drip effect.

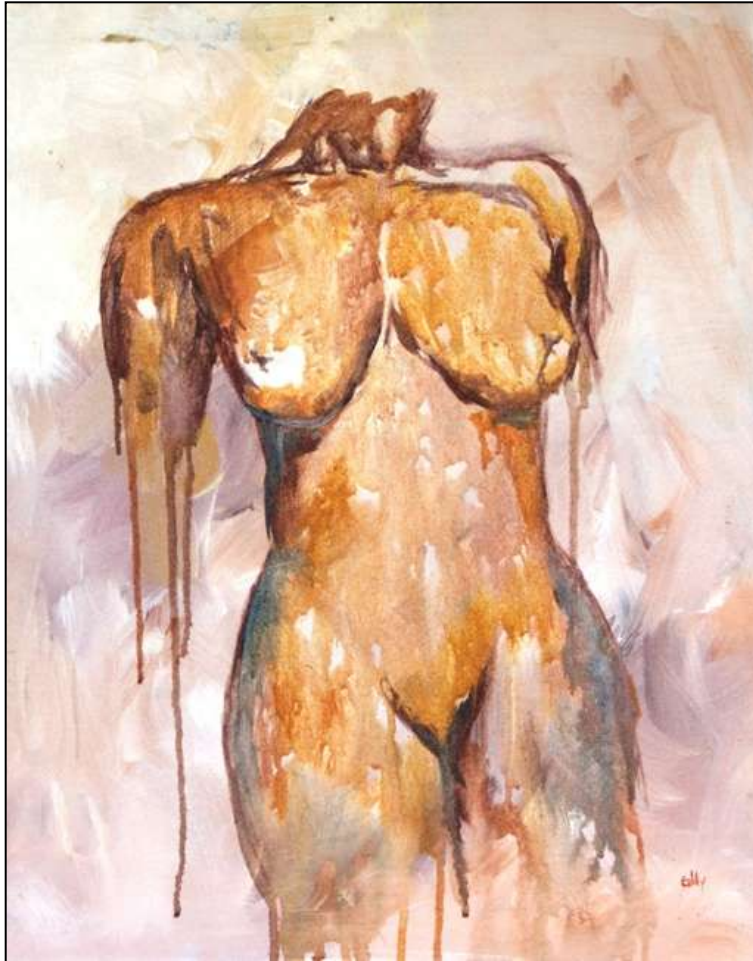
His artworks mostly depict vibrant earth colours in acrylic paints as the artist feels they are underrated yet very effective.

Eddie has participated in the Mask art prize's 2013, 2014 and 2015 editions at the Museum of Kenya, Nairobi University's ADD complex and most recently, The Michael Joseph Centre which puts him among Kenya's most promising talents at the moment.

The artist is currently pursuing a degree in Art and Design, at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Eddie Ochieng
Mariana 1
Acrylics on Canvas
55cm x 77cm





Eddie Ochieng
Mariana 2
Acrylics on Canvas
45cm x 55cm

EVELINE HASSELMAN



Eveline was born in the Netherlands and has lived and worked in France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, Slovenia, Macedonia, Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Kenya. After having travelled the world for many years, she decided to live on Diani Beach and spend most of her time at her easel, sketching and painting.

Twenty years ago, she met Poen de Wijs and Marion van Nieuwpoort, both famous artists in the Netherlands. After having met Eveline, they fell in love with Kenya and became her teachers, holding art classes both in The Hague and Diani.

After Marion's death in 2008, Eveline has been privileged to participate for a few months each year in Poen's international master classes, thus keeping abreast of any innovative techniques in the world of art. After all the art sessions in Poen's studio in the Hague, Eveline returns to Diani bursting with ideas for new drawings and paintings, eager to put her visions on canvas.

Eveline is endlessly fascinated and inspired by Kenya's grand nature, its splendid colours and beautiful light. She loves capturing its faces, flowers and wildlife on paper and canvas. She mostly uses soft pastel crayons for her portraits and acrylics for her paintings.

Her works of art emanate an atmosphere which hovers in between realism and abstract explosions of colour and movement.

She has exhibited her works of art successfully all over Europe and Africa, most recently in 2013 at the United Nations in Nairobi.



Eveline Hasselman
Blue Nude 1
Acrylics
51cm x 76cm



Eveline Hasselman
Blue Nude 2
Acrylics
51cm x 76cm

FRED ABUGA



Fred Abuga's creations are influenced by colour, nature and women's activities. Made with his typical broad strokes of single hues the paintings are a rainstorm of colour that melts into unity when viewed from a distance.

Fred is a creative Kenyan artist who showed exceptional talent at an early age. He was constantly referred to as "chief artist" because of his contribution to the drama and journalism clubs painting backdrops and cartoons.

Fred holds a diploma in Fine Art from the Buruburu Institute of Fine Arts (BIFA) and has participated in numerous exhibitions both locally and abroad: in Nairobi at the National Museum of Kenya, Karen Blixen, La Rustique, Goethe Institute, Alliance Française and other National Arts Exhibition, ISK shows, and in Cortina, Italy.

In 2006 he was the most promising male artist in the "Contemporary Art in Kenya" juried exhibition held at the French Cultural centre and at the German Institute, Nairobi.



Fred Abuga
Contemplation 1
Oil on canvas
130cm x 180cm



Fred Abuga
Contemplation 2
Oil on canvas
100cm x 180cm

Fred Abuga
Girl In A Lit Room
Oil on canvas
80cm x 160cm





Fred Abuga
Girl In A Dark Room
Oil on canvas
80cm x 160cm



JESSICA ATIENO

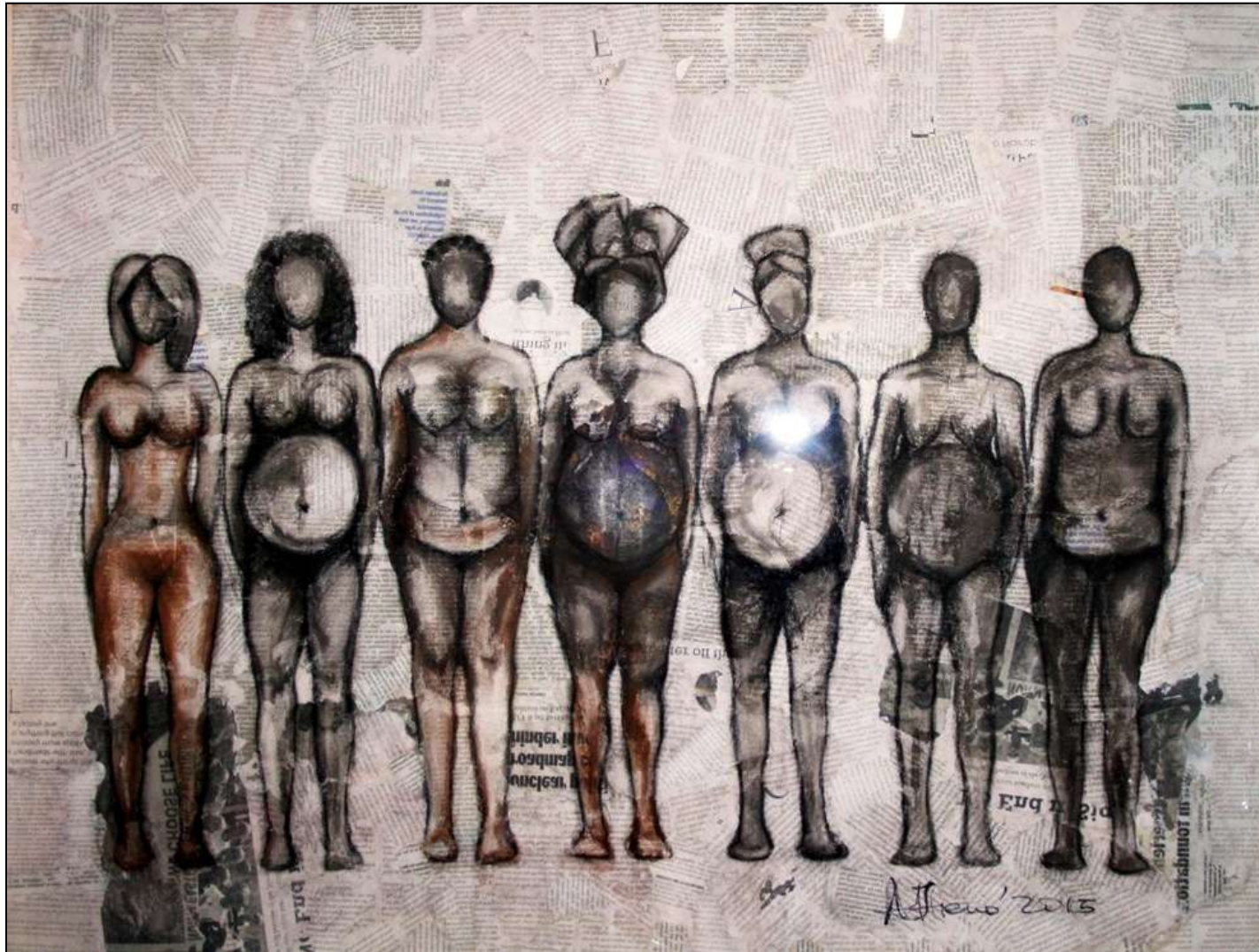
Jessica Atieno is both a fine and graphic artist having graduated with a degree in graphic arts from the Technical University of Kenya.

She works in an array of mediums including acrylics, pastels and charcoal to explore themes of feminism, modernity and political justice. These, she says, are close to her heart.

Her execution is mostly in mixed media where Jessica uses the powerful blacks and whites to portray her subjects, once ever so often throwing in a dab of colour to add balance to her graceful artworks.

The artist has also worked on a few installations, one of which was displayed at Kuona Trust's exhibition 'Full Frontal' which featured several abstract nude figures and received rave reviews.

Her works have been exhibited at the Kenya Art Fair, Kuona Trust, British High Commission and the Barclays Atelier Finalists Exhibition as the artist's prim and neat style appeals to many. Jessica is currently based in Nairobi.



Jess Atieno
Pro Choice
Mixed Media
70cm x 90cm



Jess Atieno
Mami Wata
Mixed Media
50cm x 60cm



Jess Atieno
Virgin
Mixed Media
50cm x 60cm



Jess Atieno
Rebirth
Mixed Media
60cm x 50cm



KAMAL SHAH

Born 1953 Nairobi, Kenya Shah holds a degree in English Literature and Fine Arts and also has a postgraduate Diploma in Textile Design from the University of Leeds, U.K.

He ran the Rowland Ward Gallery in Nairobi in the early 1980's and in the mid 80's he was a founding member and art-director of Kichaka, a multimedia workshop specializing in the printing of avant-garde African textiles. In the mid 1990's he decided to forgo his other commitments to paint full time.

Winner of the mixed media award during the Contemporary Art in Kenya Juried Competition & at the Alliance Française & Goethe-Institute in 2005, Kamal Shah is a renowned artist whose mixed media work is very much recognized.

His work is a story full of colour and strong visual textures. Although all his works are untitled, Kamal's ultimate impression is to allow his work to speak to his audience without giving itself easily away by placing a title to it.

Kamal Shah
Nude 1
Mixed media on board
51cm x 61cm





Kamal Shah
Nude 2
Mixed media on board
51cm x 61cm



LEMEK TOMPOIKA

Lemek Tompoika is a visual artist from Nairobi, Kenya. He became a full-time artist when he joined Kuona Trust Centre for visual arts in 2013 as a pastelliste and has from that time grown from strength to strength as he works with other artists and cuts his teeth next to some of the best the republic has to offer.

He has participated in a number of group Exhibitions in Nairobi including at Shifteye Gallery and in the annual Manjano Competition and received compelling feedback on his style.

Lemek experiments with different media such as sculpting and print making. His pastel works impressive with many done on newspaper. Various topics from sports to stock markets create for a feel of encoded significance.

His work explores humanity with the intentions of challenging all of its aspects, new and old.

He continues to conduct workshops in pastel and figure drawing at Kuona Trust and working with the community on art projects. Born in 1988 in Kajiado County, Kenya, He attended a course in Art and Drawing at the then Creative Art College in Nairobi and also has a Diploma in Culinary arts.

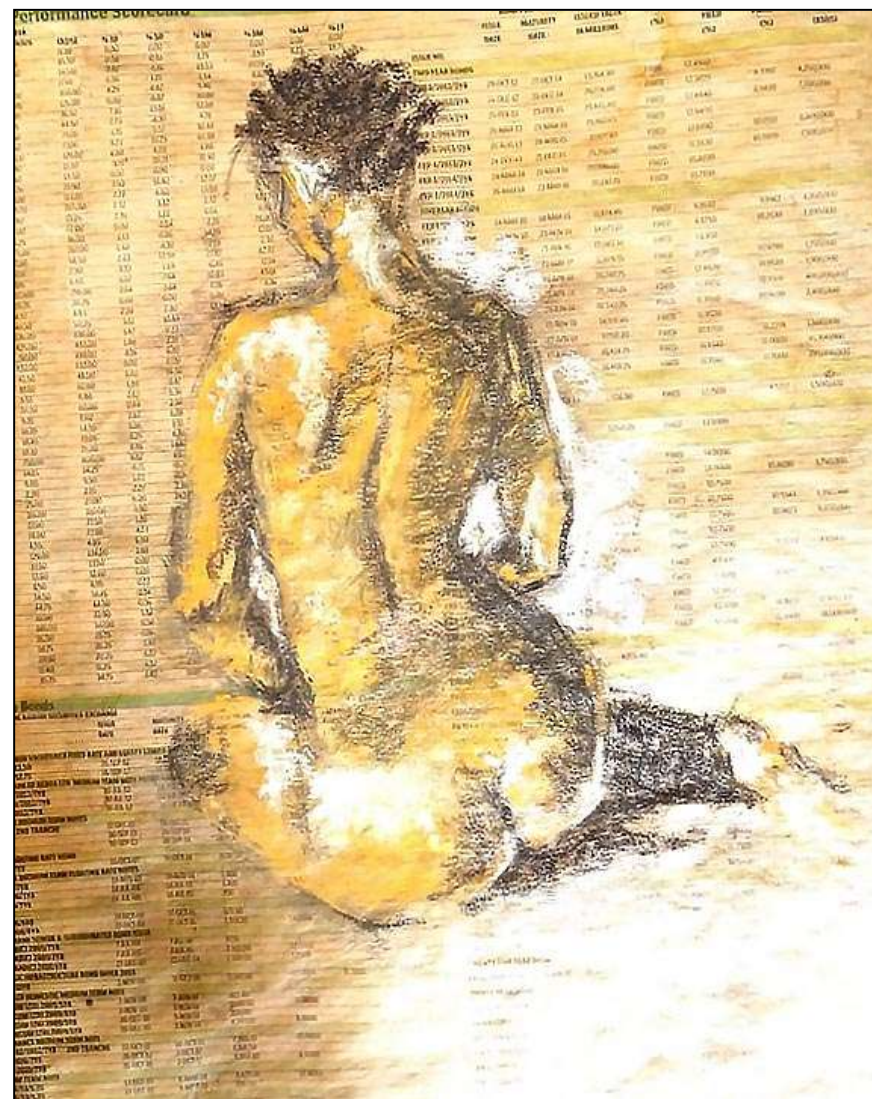
Lemek Tompoika
About Time
Pastel on newspaper
58cm x 77cm





Lemek Tompoika
The Dance Of Jackie
Pastel on newspaper
48cm x 58cm

Lemek Tompoika
Her Back Towards
Pastel on newspaper
48cm x 58cm





LONGINOS NAGILA

Longinos Nagila was born in Busia, Kenya, in 1986. His family moved to Kenya's capital Nairobi shortly after he was born and it was here that he first worked with other children to make toys of clay soil during the rainy seasons.

Nagila is a visual artist whose work embodies his interest in socio-economic situations in life, while at the same time trying to provoke thoughts that are driven towards the judgment of these situations.

Considering his paintings as a platform for conversation from within an individual or between two or more people, his main subject is the human form.

Sometimes he chooses to add protective objects like gas masks or even blocks out the eyes of the depicted person, depending on their status - current or former- in the society. This is mostly achieved by using mixed media.

His sources of inspiration are endless; however, he is deeply interested in children and women as he sees them as sources vessels and of life.

Longinos held his first solo exhibition in Lecce Italy in 2009-2010, since then he has continued to exhibit in Italy. In 2012-2013 he was one of the artists who exhibited at the Museo Africano in Verona, Italy, together with Kikoko from Togo.

In 2014 he held a first solo exhibition at Shift Eye Gallery in Nairobi, Kenya.



Longinos Nagila
I am
Mixed Media
90cm x 70cm



Longinos Nagila
Vogue Vague Vogue
Mixed Media
80cm x 56cm



Longinos Nagila
Imprisoned Soul
Mixed Media
100cm x 90cm



MARTIN ONYIS

Onyis Martin is an up and coming but very talented artist who has taken an interest in waste materials. He sees the essence in them and uses them creatively in his art.

Onyis uses mixed media in his pieces like khanga paper, polythene bags and recycled tubes. This medium also expresses the daily living experiences of his surroundings.

Onyis' paintings are flavoured with love; its opposites and its parallels. In them, he breaks down life into love and hate. For him, love and hate live together and one is not just the opposite of the other. He feels that everything that happens in this world is based on these two emotions!

He paints based on his life experiences, trusting his own inner eye, dipping the brush into his soul, the place where both love and hate reside, to bring out the absolute reality of his own world and anyone who connects with it.

Onyis also makes beads using recycled materials and he commits his time to teach children and youth in the community as a way of making sure that the next generation gains general life skills as artists.

Onyis Martin lives and works in Nairobi.



Martin Onyis
Nude Series 1
Mixed media on canvas
120cm x 100cm



Martin Onyis
Nude Series 4
Mixed media on canvas
80cm x 100cm



Martin Onyis
Nude Series 2
Mixed media on canvas
100cm x 130cm



Martin Onyis
Nude Series 5
Mixed media on canvas
80cm x 80cm



MICHAEL SOI

Born in 1972, Michael graduated from art school in 1996 and now works as a full time artist in Nairobi, Kenya.

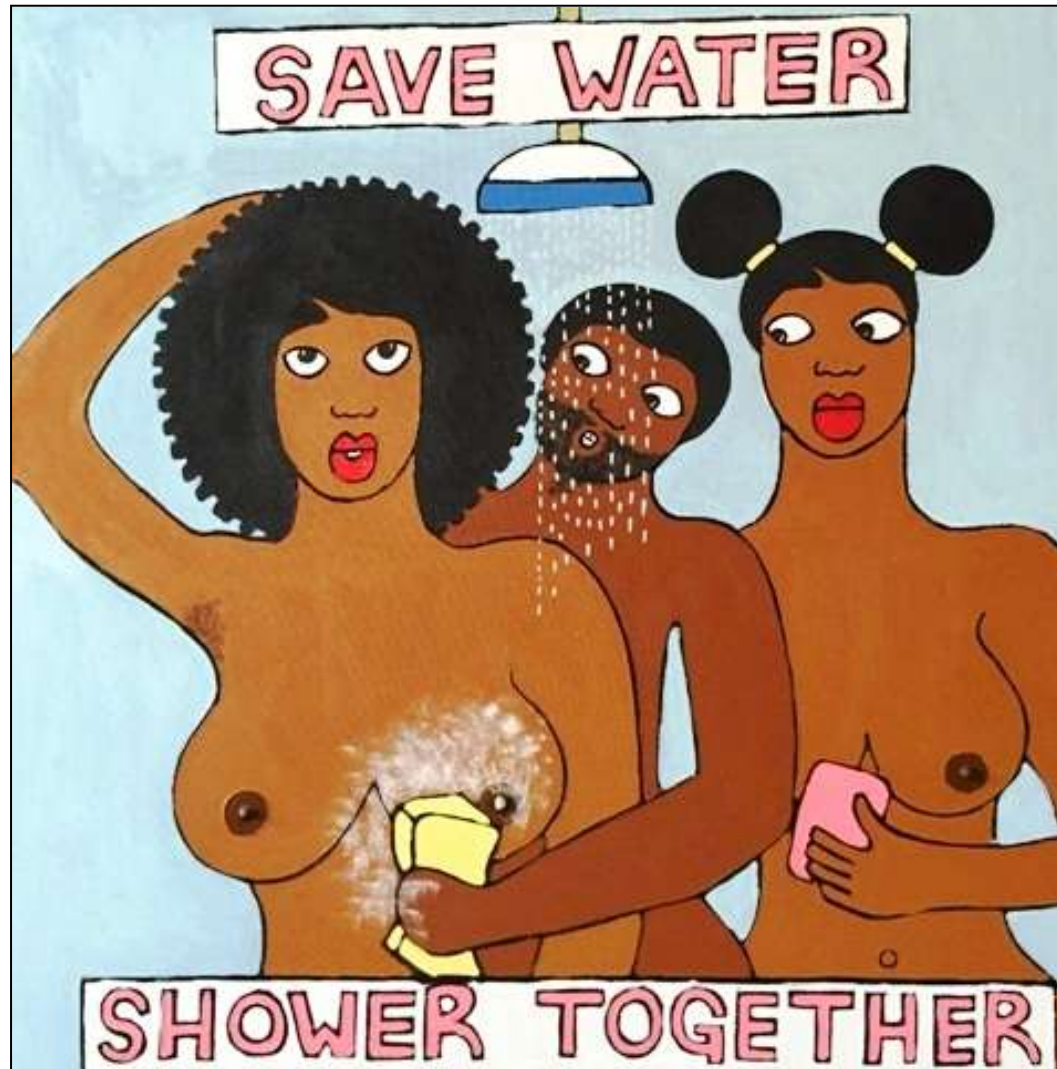
Michael worked with Kuona Trust from 1996 to 2009. He was the coordinator in charge of International Exchange of the Wasanii International Artists' Workshop and The International Artist Residency in Kenya.

He says his work is as simple as can be. 'I try to create an attitude of what you see might be what you get from it. I am involved in work that deletes, distorts and changes various images into what I want them to be, and am excited by the subtle play that erasure seems to create when executed in certain ways.'

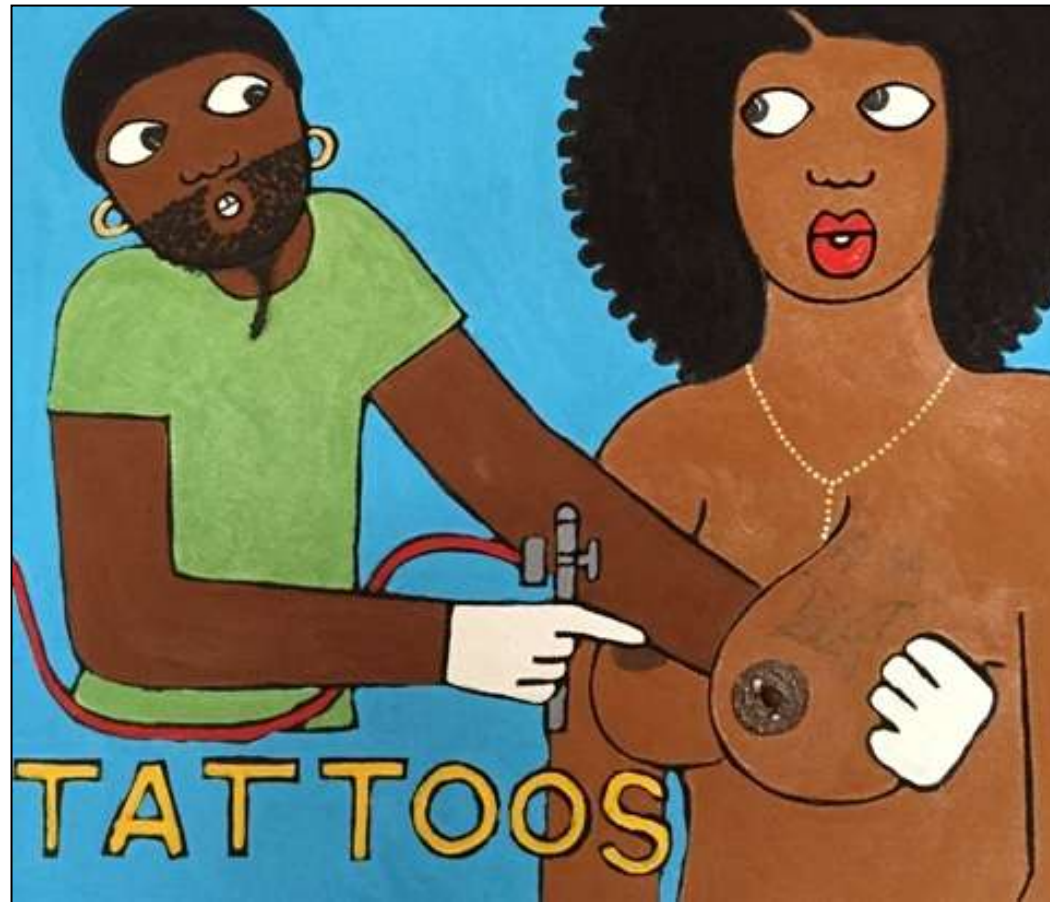
'My work mostly touches on issues related to the youth like fashion trends, music and life in general. It is not about the suppression of images or the negation of what the image represents, but is about obscuring the images in order to create a different relationship between the final piece and the viewer.'



Michael Soi
The Price Of Beauty
Acrylics on canvas
200cm x 100cm



Michael Soi
Save Water
Acrylics on canvas
100cm x 100cm



Michael Soi
Tattoo Parlour
Acrylics on canvas
70cm x 60cm



NADIA KISSELEVA

In 1980, Nadia left her homeland of Russia for Africa. Her experience in Africa has been a major influence on Nadia's work. It provided for the development of the vivid and intense colour palette and the strong dramatic contrasts in her paintings. It also introduced a number of new themes and concepts to her artistic range.

Hers is a spontaneous style of painting which is easily recognizable. It also strongly reflects her daring and expressive personality. She tries to challenge the norms of art and question the boundaries of her own artistic routine.

Nadia has over time flourished as an artist and in 2003 she was awarded the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists Prize for the most innovative painting. In the year 2006 Nadia successfully graduated from Wimbledon School of Art (University of Arts London) with BA in painting and a year later completed her studies at the Camberwell College of Art (University of Arts London)

She has taken part in numerous group exhibitions (over two hundred) and has had over a dozen of successful solo shows in Kenya and the UK. In 2002 she was elected as a member of the Royal Birmingham Society of artists (RBSA)

Kisseleva is also an active member of the Birmingham Society of Artists. Her work can be found in private collections in the United States, the United Kingdom, Kenya, Denmark, Austria and other countries. In 2009 she was named by Gallery 94, London, as one of three most promising woman painters in London art scene in the exhibition 'Three Women Artists'. Her work is on permanent display at the State House, Nairobi.

Nadia received her formal training at Ryazan College of Art in Russia and now lives and works in Diani Beach, on the South Coast of Kenya.

Nadia Kisseleva
Rhythm 2
Mixed Media
70cm x 100cm





Nadia Kisseleva
Rhythm 1
Mixed Media
76cm x 102cm



Nadia Kisseleva
Attitude
Mixed Media
54cm x 72cm

Nadia Kisseleva
Echo
Mixed Media
54cm x 72cm





Nadia Kisseleva
Male Figure
Mixed Media
54cm x 72cm



Nadia Kisseleva
In The Studio
Mixed Media
72cm x 54cm



Nadia Kisseleva
Raw Series 1
Mixed Media
80cm x 120cm

Nadia Kisseleva
Raw Series 3
Mixed Media
80cm x 120cm





Nadia Kisseleva
Raw Series 2
Mixed Media
80cm x 120cm



Nadia Kisseleva
Expectation
Mixed Media
73cm x 100cm



Nadia Kisseleva
Reclining Nude
Mixed Media
100cm x 70cm

Nadia Kisseleva
Leaning Nude
Mixed Media
70cm x 100cm





PAUL NJIHIA

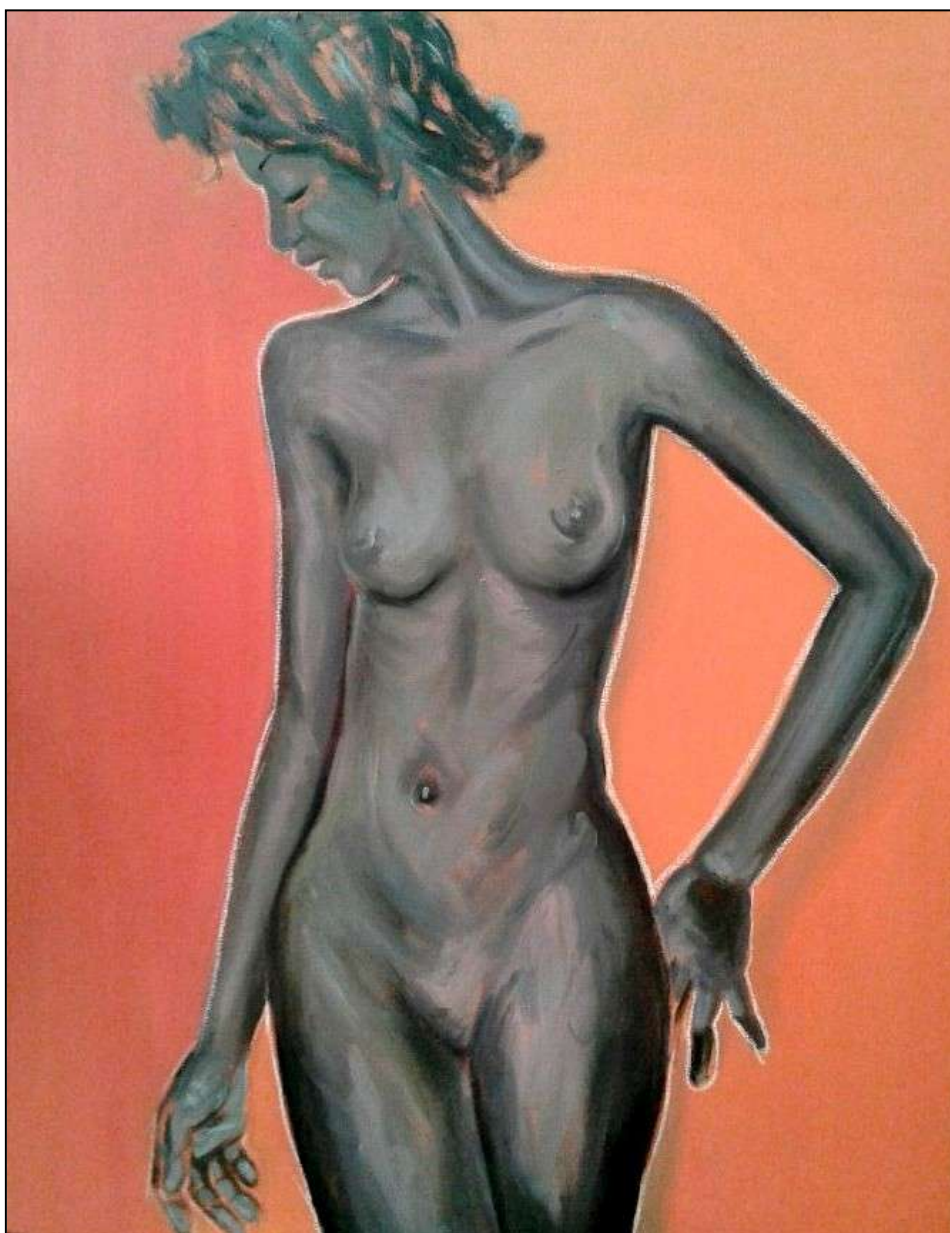
Paul Njihia is known for his ability to capture the human form, whether in detailed portraits or figures stylized with bold brush strokes.

A self-taught artist, he began his career with commissioned portraits in 2010, three years before completing school.

In November 2014, he was declared the Most Promising Male Artist in a competition organized by the National Museum of Kenya and was exhibited there a month later.

Since then he has been heavily exhibited in Kenya and is a member of the Kuona Trust Art Centre. His current series, on display at The Talisman, is called “Nairobi SiSiTV” and captures scenes of city life from an elevated perspective, mirroring the stills taken by Nairobi County Council’s CCTV cameras in the city centre.

Some pieces are painted on joined pieces of plywood, recalling the forms of Piet Mondrian and representing the tiles and slabs of urban pavement.



Paul Njihia
Shy
Mixed Media
71cm x 92cm

Paul Njihia
Hidden Beauty
Mixed Media
66cm x 66cm





RONALD KERANGO

Ronald Kerango has always had a strong desire to express himself. He has also tried to create artwork from materials found within his immediate environment as he felt he related to them and they were part of his life.

As time has gone by, Kerango's art has often sought to investigate the way in which different materials 'behave' in the process of self expression. He has also deduced that different materials could be used in setting the tone of the expression to be conveyed even before the artist puts paint to canvas.

This is evident in his work now, as different colour palettes of traditional pieces of materials are used as the background of his work. This creates a much textured finish and an exciting composition.

Kerango also seeks to tackle sensitive social issues such as gender. In his most recent pieces, he highlights the need for gender equality in Uganda by using the female form as an inspiration to his pieces.

"Ro" as he is famously known among his peers was born in 1984 in Kampala and attended the prestigious Margaret Trowel School of Industrial and Fine Arts at Makerere University and obtained a Bachelor's Degree.

In 2014, "Ro" was featured among the top 10 contemporary artists in Uganda by the Culture Trip



Ronald Kerango
Thigh Power 2
Mixed media on canvas
60cm x 80cm

Ronald Kerango
Walking Tall
Mixed media on canvas
60cm x 80cm



SEBAWALI SIO



Sebawali Sio has been painting for 10 years. Her work is a combination of abstract and non-abstract pieces. The subjects of her non-abstract pieces are predominantly women's faces.

Sebawali is fascinated by the form and structure of female faces and uses different techniques and media to portray visible emotions on her canvas. She would like to tell the stories of different women through her work and by varying the colours, textures and media, she strives to achieve this.

Starting her new pieces when she finds herself in a 'zone' where she experiences a minimum of inhibitions, leaving only a sense of chaos and the inevitability of a new creation, Sebawali sees her pieces as a vision wanting to be put into tangible form.

Her work encompasses diverse styles and motions she has adapted over the years and explores different multimedia experiences. Sebawali uses mixed media when painting. She uses oil paints, and acrylics.

She draws inspiration from her surroundings. The position, versatility, expectations and strength of women in her society are her main points of reference. Her influences include Paul Onditi, a Kenyan painter and Harding Meyer a portrait painter.

Seba holds a Master's of Science in Law and Accounting from the London School of Economics & Political Science.



Sebawali Sio
Nude 1
Mixed Media
50cm x 50cm

Sebawali Sio
Nude 2
Mixed Media
50cm x 50cm





Sebawali Sio
Nude 3
Mixed Media
50cm x 50cm

SSALI YUSUF



Ssali Yusuf is a Ugandan artist born in 1983 at Kireka, Wakiso district. He studied Industrial & Fine Arts graduating with a BA Degree from Makerere University in Uganda.

Ssali started painting full time in 2003, after he had practiced his skills with different artists in Uganda. His inspiration comes from day to day activities done mainly by African women and cultural goings-on in African societies.

Yusuf uses oil and acrylic on canvas, but once in a while he likes to use bark cloth, a popular medium in his homeland. His paintings are rich in dark hues of royal purple and navy blue, with generous additions of warm shades to create a buffet of colour that is unmistakably the artist's signature.

He has exhibited his works at numerous galleries including the Makerere University art gallery, Tulifanya Art Gallery, Afriart Gallery, Aid child, Gallery Watatu Nairobi, RAMOMA Museum of art Nairobi, Evere commune Brussels Belgium, Rue-Dela Madeleine 17, Brussels, NATTA Art in East Europe, Holland Boxmeer, and others.

As a professional artist, Ssali prays that he leaves the earth with a legacy of works and to be known as a world-famous painter.



Ssali Yusuf
Bare 1
Acrylics on canvas
88cm x 120cm



Ssali Yusuf
Bare 2
Acrylics on canvas
70cm x 90cm

TABITHA WA THUKU



Tabitha Wa Thuku was born in Kiambu district, and has been a visual artist for twenty years.

'I get impatient with the facades women present to deal with male domination.' Tabitha prefers meeting with them with all guns blazing; using all the tools at her disposal to make space for her freedom.

Wa Thuku sees the artist as a bearer of messages from a place beyond them. For her the making of art is guided by a spirit, a message that comes upon the artist, and does not let go until the work is complete.

"When I work, I don't want to see anybody. I just want to be alone. And at one time, am heated up so much that I cannot even sleep. I don't want to do anything to interrupt the message."

Wa Thuku has participated widely in workshops and exhibitions in Kenya and overseas, most recently in Milan in 2009.



Tabitha wa Thuku
Hotspot
Mixed media on canvas
105cm x 69cm



YASSIR ALI

Yassir Ali is a Sudanese artist who is currently living in Nairobi, Kenya. He graduated in 1997 from the Fine Art Department of Sudan University for Science and Technology.

His art work is inspired by Nubian culture. He uses the Nubian motifs colours and atmosphere. His paintings are intense and full of texture dotted with patches of vibrant paint on an already bright canvas. Yassir's work is loaded with colours of blue, red, ochre and orange. 'These are the colours of the Nubian people and they occupy the subject in my works'.

On why all his art works are untitled, the artist says "I do not like confining my ideas to a subject. My art can speak for itself without me having to interpret it to anyone."

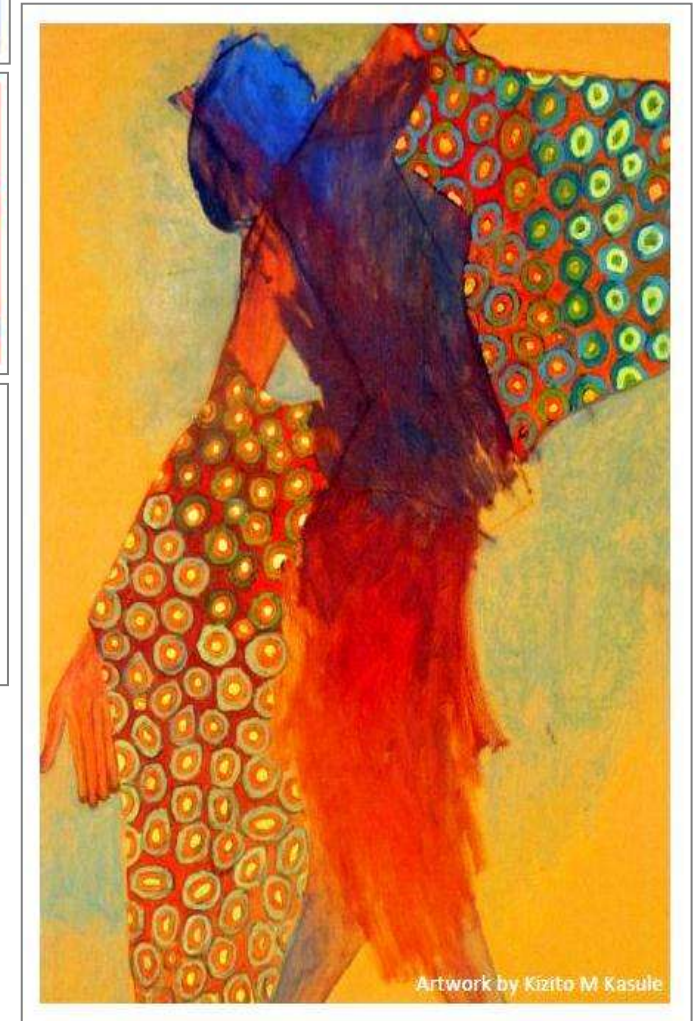
Since 1998 Yassir has been involved in many projects for Sudanese children, for example Nafage Art Workshop at Abd elKarim Mirghani Cultural Center (AKMCC), Sudan. He is also responsible for promoting help for displaced and deprived children since 2000 for organization called Children's Culture of AKMCC.

He is also member of the Almada Art Group Union for Sudanese Artist and member of Kuona Trust in Nairobi.



Yassir Ali
Frontal
Mixed Media
47cm x 59cm

ART GREETING CARDS



8 carefully chosen artworks by African artists have been selected to produce this gift set of folding greeting cards. They come packed in cellophane bags, are wrapped with water lily string and have a blank gallery tag so you can write a message if you're planning to give the card set as a gift.

For all designs and more information please see our Facebook page on.fb.me/18bSVy2 or order your set of cards by emailing us on gallery@dianiart.com



SCULPTURES

GAKUNJU KAIGWA



Gakunju Kaigwa has been sculpting since the early 1980s after receiving a Bachelor of Education degree in Fine Arts from Kenyatta University. He later obtained a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Dundee in Scotland.

With his extensive experience at academies and apprenticeships in Europe and the United States, Gakunju may well be the most versatile sculptor in Nairobi.

His materials range from stone, wood and bronze, to steel, resin and fiber-glass. He sees his artistic role as that of a storyteller and feels that he has been given a unique opportunity to chronicle and comment on the times in which he lives in a visual and tangible format.

He is interested in the limitless potential of mixed media and plans to take his work to a larger scale, possibly as commissioned in public spaces throughout Kenya.



Gakunju Kaigwa/Tapfuma Gutsa
Grief (front elevation)
Tuff stone/Wooden base
47cm x 104cm x 49cm



KEPHA MOSOTI

As a youth, Kepha started honing his artistic skills by figure, nature and landscape drawing, but the urge to sculpt grew more and more as years went by.

He is now one of Kenya's foremost sculptors.

Nyanza province and Kisii in particular, where Kepha was born and raised, has a rich history of curving and sculpting, and this had a great influence in his career as an artist.

His wooden and mixed media sculptures are characterized by a blend of both realism and abstract forms. Using fire sometimes, he achieves remarkable results as the wood and its features are accentuated by burning them and later brushing off the edges.

He also paints, but leans more towards sculpting as he feels 3 dimensional pieces readily express emotion, including features and expressions on the human face. He favors the human form too saying he relates to it better than anything else.

Kepha also makes exemplary pieces based on footwear, with some that have socio-political stories behind them. The sculptor is heavily inspired by fellow Kenyan artists Cyrus Kabiru and particularly Dennis Muraguri, who he shares similar themes. He holds a Diploma in Fine Arts from the Buruburu Institute of Fine Arts and currently works in the Kenyan capital; Nairobi.

Kepha Mosoti
Seduction
Wooden sculpture
16cm x 14cm x 21cm





Kepha Mosoti
Beauty Within
Wooden sculpture
16cm x 14cm x 21cm



Kepha Mosoti
African Beauty
Wooden sculpture
17cm x 18cm x 64cm

Kepha Mosoti
Fertility
Wooden sculpture
16cm x 23cm x 47cm





Kepha Mosoti
Supermodel 1 & 2
Wooden sculpture
10cm x 12cm x 50cm



Martin Onyis
Nude Series 6
Reclaimed Wire Sculpture
37cm x 40cm x 63cm

For the artist's full biography,
please go to **page 54**

PATRICK MULONDO



Patrick Mulondo is one of Uganda's youngest yet most promising talents- he fuses a burning love for sculpting and a great talent for visual arts in a highly dynamic way.

Patrick is intrigued by the challenge of creating entirely unique pieces from a largely random collection of discarded objects by welding, and is particularly fond of the human form.

Mulondo feels that giving these old, common items a new and extraordinary life in the form of sculpture is artistically very challenging, yet he gets a huge sense of gratification from the process and ultimately the completion of his breathtaking works.

The artist also designs his pieces so that they can be highly interactive and prompt viewers to question the reality of what they see. Some are left unfinished to add to the element of mysticism that he seeks to convey.

When asked what drives him, Mulondo says, "My classmate reactions fuel my motivation." One look at any of the sculptor's pieces and you will understand why!

Mulondo was born in Uganda in 1989 and holds a Bachelor degree in Fine Arts degree from Makerere University.



Patrick Mulondo
Spark into the future
Junk Metal Parts
97cm x 49cm x 53cm



PIM NICOLAI

The architect, designer and sculptor Pim Nicolai has worked on some of the most unique properties throughout Africa and describes his projects as having been inspired by indigenous architecture.

Living more than 20 years in Kenya while designing and realizing exclusive real estate, he has often found himself developing some of the most remote locations in Africa.

This vast knowledge of African design can be seen in his otherworldly sculptures and creations that are exhibited both at the gallery and in numerous other establishments on the continent.

Being inspired by his creative wife Muthoni Mahinda and the rich cultural heritage of Africa, he is now focused on creating art for interiors

Admiring the simplicity of African rural life, he incorporates the basic natural elements like wood, stone and metal in his work, more recently producing coconut sculptures and chandeliers.

Pim Nicolai was born in the Netherlands, lived in the US and studied in Paris, France. He also attended the Free Art Academy in Amsterdam studying monumental Arts.



PIM NICOLAI'S 'BREASTS OF LIFE'

Breasts of Life' tell a story originating from Malawi, a country where breasts only come second to god. They provide life and thus are particularly revered.

Proof of this can be seen all over the country as various structures are decorated with breasts, including doorposts, windows and with sculptures depicting the same a common sight.

Pim Nicolai
Breasts of Life
Reclaimed Coconut Wood
47cm x 49cm x 157cm



TOM ONEYA

There are very few clay sculptors in developing countries like Kenya. This is because the training is not diversified enough to show and encourage the potential of artists and to help further their talents.

However, born in the early 1960's Tom Otieno Oneya already developed a strong interest in the art of clay sculpture in his young childhood years. He had no proper art teacher throughout his primary level of education, a factor that did not hinder the progress of his unique talent in working with this medium.

A new wind of positive transformation on Oneya's quality of art blew when he joined Nyabondo High School for his secondary education.

At this school Tom managed to join a group of young and talented artist under the tutelage of the late Father Leo Bartels of Nyabondo Mission in Kisumu district. Under the guidance of Father Leo, Tom could develop and hone his skills in the fine art of clay sculpturing.

After completing his secondary education Tom joined the Agoro Sare High school. He was admitted as the only student for the subject of Art. The lack of peers did not discourage him in his passion for the subject, and he enjoyed the focus and attention of an art teacher hired especially for him.

Finally, Oneya joined the Kenya Polytechnic in 1989 for his Diploma Course in Graphic Design. Tom decided to become a fulltime artist after he successfully completed his college training and now works full time as a clay sculptor.



Tom Oneya
Masai woman with baby
Clay sculpture
20cm x 18cm x 52cm



Tom Oneya
Thinking Bald Man
Clay sculpture
23cm x 19cm x 31cm



Tom Oneya
Breastfeeding Maasai Woman
Clay sculpture
25cm x 17cm x 33cm



Tom Oneya
Lost In Thought
Clay sculpture
27cm x 17cm x 26cm



Tom Oneya
Maasai Herdsman 2
Clay sculpture
20cm x 18cm x 52cm



Tom Oneya
Turkana Woman with Baby on Back
Clay sculpture
20cm x 18cm x 52cm

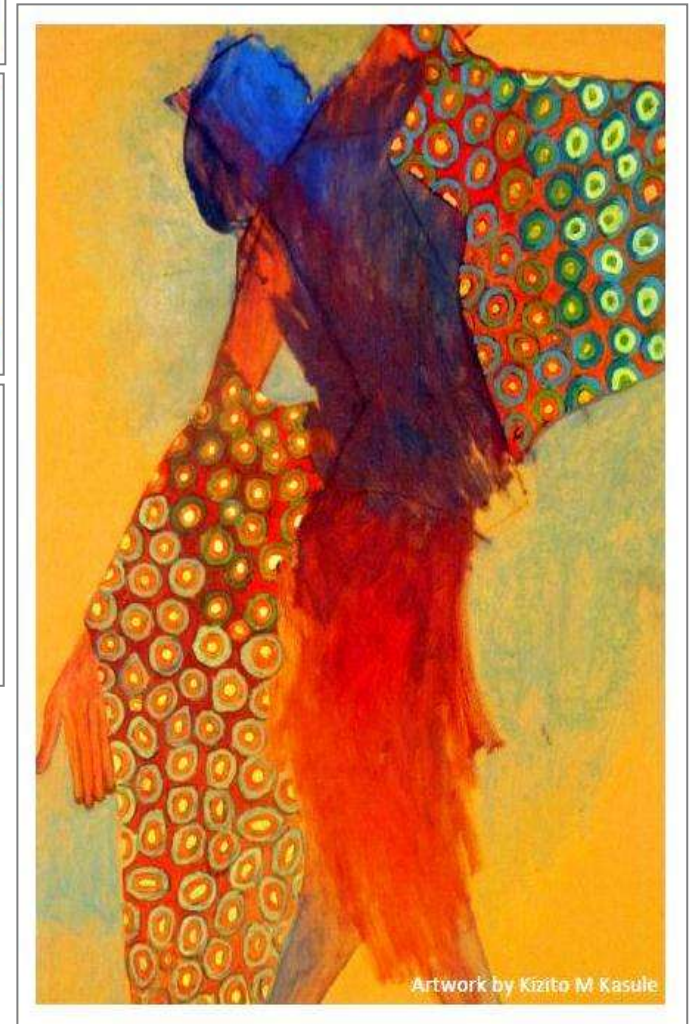
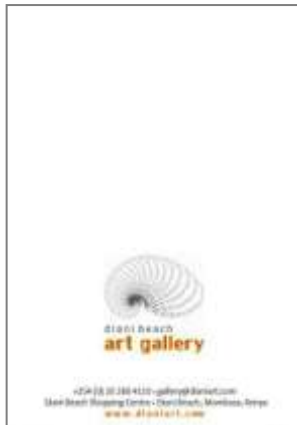


Tom Oneya
Maasai Herdsman 3
Clay sculpture
19cm x 24cm x 54cm



Tom Oneya
Thinking Masai woman
Clay sculpture
27cm x 20cm x 30cm

ART GREETING CARDS



8 carefully chosen artworks by African artists have been selected to produce this gift set of folding greeting cards. They come packed in cellophane bags, are wrapped with water lily string and have a blank gallery tag so you can write a message if you're planning to give the card set as a gift.

For all designs and more information please see our Facebook page [on.fb.me/18bSVy2](https://www.facebook.com/18bSVy2) or order your set of cards by emailing us on gallery@dianiart.com



COMMISSIONS

COMMISSIONS

Have you seen artwork you love but which is not available any longer? Do you like the style of a certain artist and want to have an original piece, created only for you? Or do you have a specific space to furnish with art which needs to meet certain requirements? **Why not commission a piece from the artist!** We work very closely with the artists in our gallery and are happy to get a quote for your own personal and unique art piece.

PAINTED ART

A client selected artist Jimnah Kimani, whose work can be seen at Java Coffee Houses in Nairobi and Mombasa, for a commission. The piece now adorns a company board room in Dubai.



The stages of a commission include the concept, sketch on canvas or model sculpture, and final creation of the piece



SCULPTURE

Patrick Mulondo's 'Rock It!' sculpture was a commissioned piece for a client and showcased at The Sands at Nomad Hotel, Diani Beach, Kenya.



MONUMENTS

The Diani Beach Art Gallery was commissioned to create a magnificent sculpture to be the focal point of the multi-million Dollar **EnglishPoint Marina** project in Mombasa, Kenya.

Renowned Kenyan artist Gerard Oroo Motondi was engaged to create the sculpture, which can now be viewed at English Point Marina.

For a detailed account of the commission project please visit our **Facebook page**.





gallery@dianiart.com • www.dianiart.com
PO Box 5702 • Diani Beach 80401 • Kenya

www.facebook/diani.art.gallery
Twitter: @DianiArtGallery
+254(0)706 629 655